

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) An engineered spun yarn comprising a first yarn including a series of spun fibers about three inches or less in length, and a second yarn, the first and second yarns each including at least one of the following: natural fibers, synthetic fibers and a combination of natural and synthetic fibers, and the yarn further comprising at least one core fiber wrapped with at least one sheath fiber, wherein the first and second yarns are positioned adjacent and parallel to each other such that the core and sheath fibers of each yarn are engaged by needles arranged to penetrate substantially approximately through a centerline of ~~the~~ each yarn so as to penetrate and engage the core and sheath fibers and cause the core and sheath fibers of each yarn to substantially intermix as the needles move therethrough to provide the fibers of the ~~resultant spun engineered~~ yarn with enhanced resistance to unraveling, resistance to linting, an increase in bulk or desired aesthetic properties.
2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The yarn of claim ~~2~~1 and wherein the first and second yarns each have different material properties such that the composite yarn includes the different material properties of both yarns.
4. (currently amended) The yarn of claim 1 and wherein the core and sheath fibers of at least one of the first and second yarns each have different material properties to produce a composite yarn incorporating such different material properties.
5. (canceled)
6. (currently amended) The yarn of claim 4 and wherein the fibers of ~~the yarn~~ of at least one of the first and second yarns include fibers having enhanced liquid absorption properties and fibers having enhanced abrasive properties.
7. (original) The yarn of claim 1 and wherein the yarn comprises a Dref yarn.
8. (original) The yarn of claim 1 and wherein the yarn comprises an open-end spun yarn.
9. (original) The yarn of claim 1 and wherein the yarn comprises a ring spun yarn.
10. (original) The yarn of claim 1 and wherein the yarn comprises a vortex spun yarn.

11. (original) The yarn of claim 1 and wherein the yarn comprises a worsted spun yarn.
12. (original) The yarn of claim 1 and wherein the yarn comprises a worsted carded fibrous mass.
13. – 17 (canceled)
18. (currently amended) A yarn bundle having improved material properties, including enhanced resistance to unraveling and linting, the yarn bundle comprising spun yarns each comprising a series of fibers, each of a length of about three inches or less and selected from at least one of a series of natural fibers, synthetic fibers, or a combination of natural and synthetic fibers, the yarn bundle being subjected to a needling process wherein the fibers thereof are engaged and penetrated by a series of needles such that the fibers of the yarn bundle are intermixed to form the yarn and wherein the yarn fibers are twisted prior to needling to lock in twist of the yarn without heat setting.
19. (canceled)
20. (previously amended) The yarn bundle of claim 18 and wherein the yarn bundle comprises a composite yarn including a first yarn and a second yarn each consisting essentially of natural fibers, synthetic fibers or a combination thereof, the yarns

positioned adjacent and parallel to each other such that the needles penetrate approximately through the centerline of both yarns so that the fibers of the first yarn are intermixed with the fibers of the second yarn to weld the yarns together to form the composite yarn.

21. (previously amended) The yarn bundle of claim 20 and wherein the first and second yarns each have different material properties such that the composite yarn includes the different material properties of both yarns.
22. (previously amended) The yarn bundle of claim 18 and wherein the fibers of the yarn bundle are engaged by the needles and the yarn bundle is advanced at a predetermined rate and distance between strokes of the needles during the needling process to create a desired aesthetic appearance for the yarn.
23. (previously amended) The yarn bundle of claim 18 and further comprising a fibrous web attached to the yarn bundle by the engagement of fibers of the fibrous web with the series of needles during the needling process whereby the fibers of the fibrous web and the fibers of the yarn bundle are intermixed.

24 - 29. (canceled)

30. (new) A spun composite yarn, comprising a first yarn and a second yarn, each comprising core and sheath fibers formed from synthetic fibers, natural fibers or a combination thereof, with the core and sheath fibers of each yarn having different desired performance or aesthetic properties, said first and second yarns each being twisted and arranged in a parallel relationship, and subjected to a needling operation wherein a series of needles penetrate said first and second yarns, approximately through centerlines thereof, to substantially intermix said fibers of said yarns and weld said yarns together to form the composite yarn having combined performance or aesthetic properties of both said first and second yarns.